

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 9 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

On 6 January 2013, in his speech to the Syrian people, Mr. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, launched a political programme aimed at resolving the crisis in Syria that began some two years ago. The programme is based on the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012. The programme emphasizes the need to find a political solution to this crisis through a Syrian-led dialogue among the Syrian people, as set out in Security Council resolutions 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012) and the Geneva communiqué, with a view to defining Syria's political future based on the principles of democracy, political plurality and the protection of human rights and freedom of the press.

The political programme prescribes a three-stage, inclusive national dialogue in order to ensure the successful resolution of the crisis. It provides that, in preparation for the national dialogue, the countries of the region should stop funding, arming and harbouring the armed groups, and that the armed groups, the Army and the Syrian Arab Armed Forces should adhere to a ceasefire. It also provides that guarantees will be offered to Syrian opposition groups in order that they might enter the country, without conditions, to participate in the national dialogue; that the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those who need it will be facilitated; that guarantees will be offered to facilitate the return to Syria, without conditions, of citizens who had left the country because of the events; and that intensive contacts will be held with the national opposition, parties and civil society organizations, with a view to holding an open dialogue in preparation for the convening of an inclusive national dialogue conference.

In the second stage, which is the transitional stage, an inclusive national dialogue conference will be convened in order to draft a national pact that defines the political future of democratic Syria and to agree on a constitutional and judicial system based on political pluralism; the rule of law; maintaining the civilian nature of the State; the equality of all citizens, regardless of race, religion or gender; freedom of expression; and respect for human rights. The national pact developed by the inclusive national dialogue conference will be put to a referendum for



adoption. A broad-based government with extensive executive powers would then be established. That government would then convene a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution for the country and put into effect what was agreed upon in the national dialogue with regard to the constitutional and judicial systems. The new constitution would then be put to a popular referendum for adoption. Parliamentary elections would then be held in accordance with the new election law and the new constitution.

In the third stage, a new government would be formed in accordance with the new constitution, and all those who had been detained in connection with the events would be granted amnesty and released. A national reconciliation conference would be held, reconstruction work would begin and civilians who had suffered losses because of the events would be compensated.

We are forwarding to you this overview of the political programme for review. We hope that you will support it because it reflects precisely the nature of this transitional stage and the opinions that have been articulated, at various levels, with a view to resolving this crisis by countering terrorism and building a Syria that is characterized by political pluralism and that guarantees freedom of expression and respect for human rights through new laws on political parties, elections, local administration and the media, in order to restore security and stability to Syria, the region and beyond.

Political prudence, meticulous respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the desire to maintain security and peace in the Middle East region and beyond, avoiding haste when adopting positions and being mindful of the dangers posed by the support of certain States and Powers for armed terrorist groups are the basis for reaching the noble aims of protecting Syria's citizens from violence and destructive foreign intervention in Syria's internal affairs, and of countering terrorism, which threatens our peoples and States.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bashar Ja'afari
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

**Annex to the identical letters dated 9 January 2013 from the
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

Political programme to resolve the crisis

The political programme to resolve the crisis in Syria is based on the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012, all of which uphold States' sovereignty, independence and territorial unity and integrity, and the principle of non-intervention in States' internal affairs. Recognizing the need for Syrian-led dialogue among Syrians, it seeks to define the political future of democratic Syria on the basis of political pluralism and to create a safe and stable environment resulting from the cessation of all forms of violence.

I. Preparatory stage

1. All regional and international States and parties shall agree to stop funding, arming and harbouring armed groups.
2. All armed groups shall commit to an immediate end to all forms of violence.
3. The Army and armed forces shall commit to an end to military operations except in order to defend themselves, citizens or public or private property.
4. A mechanism shall be developed in order to ensure that the parties comply with the ceasefire and monitor the borders.
5. The delivery of humanitarian aid to those who need it shall be facilitated.
6. The reconstruction of infrastructure and payment of compensation to those affected shall commence.
7. The necessary guarantees shall be given to Syrian citizens who left because of the events, and their return through border crossings shall be facilitated.
8. Guarantees shall be given to all of the Syrian opposition forces that they can enter, reside in and leave the country without hindrance with a view to participating in the national dialogue.
9. The Ministry of Justice shall coordinate with the competent agencies in taking the necessary measures to expedite the processing and conclusion of cases resulting from the events; freeing those who are not found guilty; and resolving the situation of individuals who surrender their weapons to the competent agencies, without prosecuting them as a result.
10. The Government shall enter into intensive contact with the national opposition, the parties and all political forces and civil society institutions, including social, religious and economic institutions, in order immediately to enter into open dialogue in preparation for an inclusive national dialogue conference.

II. Transitional stage

1. The Government shall convene an inclusive national dialogue conference with the purpose of drafting a national pact including the following points:

(a) Commitment to the sovereignty of Syria and the unity and integrity of its people;

(b) Rejection of all forms of foreign intervention in Syrian affairs;

(c) Renunciation of violence and terrorism of all forms;

(d) A definition of the political future of democratic Syria and an agreement on a constitutional and judicial system and political and economic outline based on political pluralism; the rule of law; commitment to the civilian nature of the State; the equality of citizens irrespective of race, religion or gender; freedom of expression; respect for human rights; countering corruption; administrative reform; an agreement on new laws concerning political parties, elections, local administration and the media; and the provisions agreed upon at the conference.

2. The national pact shall be put to a referendum for adoption.

3. A broad-based government with extensive executive powers, representing the components of Syrian society, shall be established in accordance with the constitution. That government shall convene a constituent assembly to formulate a new draft constitution in accordance with the provisions agreed upon at the national dialogue conference regarding the constitutional and judicial system and the political and economic outline of Syria's renewal.

4. When the constituent assembly completes its work, the draft constitution shall be put to a referendum for approval by the people.

5. After that constitution has been approved, the broad-based government shall adopt the laws agreed upon at the dialogue conference in preparation for their promulgation in accordance with the new constitution.

6. Parliamentary elections shall be held pursuant to the new election law and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

III. Third stage

1. The new government shall be formed in accordance with the new constitution.

2. A national reconciliation conference shall be held in order to restore bonds between Syrian citizens based on the moral and national spirit that has characterized the Syrian citizen.

3. A general amnesty shall be issued in respect of crimes committed during the events, and those imprisoned because of such crimes shall be released. The prosecution of citizens as a result of the events shall be brought to an end while preserving civil rights.

4. Work on infrastructure, reconstruction and payment of compensation to citizens affected by the events shall be expedited and completed.